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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AMERICA.

THE NORTH COAST OF ALASKA BADLY CHARTED.—Mr. V. Stefánsson, the ethnologist, now among the Eskimo of northern Alaska, has written a letter to a member of this Society in which he says:

"It seems to me that badly mapped countries need resurveying as much as unmapped ones require original exploration. Circumstances have brought this forcibly to notice in my own case. Trusting to a map used by whalers and others who navigate this coast, we followed a continuous line of sand bars from Point Barrow eastward to their end at the first point of mainland which should, by the chart, have accordingly been Point Tangent, east of which the chart gives a narrow bay (say 7 miles across) and then a point.

"We sailed in thick weather about 10 miles S. E. without finding land and then turned south thinking perhaps our compass was wrong on account of excess of iron in our cargo. After going a few miles farther, we got into muddy water and fresh—a river delta where none was indicated on the chart. Then, we tried to beat out but a change of wind suddenly lowered the water some 3 feet (it had been a storm tide) and we were aground. Before the wind changed to give us enough water, we should have had to wait two weeks; as it was, we froze up in, perhaps, the most unfavourable location on the whole coast—no game, almost no driftwood, and far from all places we thought at all desirable for wintering.

"As a matter of fact, there are few places between the Mackenzie river and Point Barrow where there is even a family resemblance between the earth, as the Lord made it, and the chart as the surveyors have made it. Nevertheless, even, after being many times deceived, I trust to the chart, now and then, thinking it may possibly be right this time; and I have found it almost right occasionally but no oftener than the law of chances prescribes. That it has scarcely suspicion of rightness has cost me a great deal this time—something in money, and more in deranged plans and hopes that turned out empty.

"With just my prismatic compass and such common sense as I can muster I hope to make a better survey of some part of this coast than has been put on paper so far. I could not make it much worse even with noteworthy incompetence. Any Eskimo who travels this coast can, in ten minutes, draw a useful chart of 100 miles of coast line. One can travel by it because it gives bays where there are bays, rivers where there are rivers, and islands wherever they exist. But the maps stamped 'corrected to 1906' have deep bays where the coast is straighter than where they chart it straight, isolated islands where there are unbroken chains, islands north of each other where there is only a single chain, running east and west and no rivers indicated where there are deltas 15 miles wide and stretches of fresh water far in the ocean.

"The delta in which we are stranded is a mass of islands, its front is some 20 miles wide and has all the typical deltoid characteristics. The 'Thetis Islands', discovered in 1889, have no existence apart from the chain of islands lying about 3 or 4 miles off Beechey Point and long before discovered and correctly placed by English explorers. I have gone over their location in steamers (1907 in the

Belvedere, 1908 in the *Karluk*) and in skin boats and neither have I seen them nor have the Eskimo who have had houses near there and hunted seal and bear for generations where the map has the islands placed."

INDEX MAP OF ALASKA.—A new index map of the Territory showing areas covered by topographic surveys has just been issued by the U. S. Geological Survey. On the back of the map is a list of the Survey's publications on Alaska, comprising 28 maps and 119 reports.

The value of the mineral output of Alaska to date is approximately $148,000,000, including the values of gold, silver, copper, coal, tin, marble, and other minerals. The cost of the Survey's explorations in the Territory, since they began, in 1898, has been less than three-tenths of 1 per cent. of the total value of the mineral productions. Areas in Alaska amounting to 121,252 square miles have been topographically surveyed on a scale of 4 miles to the inch and 2,732 square miles on a scale of 1 mile to the inch. These surveys cover, respectively, 20.85 and 0.47 per cent. of the total area of Alaska. During the same period geologic reconnaissance maps have been made of 99,350 square miles and detailed geologic maps of 2,304 square miles.

A copy of the map, including list of publications, can be had on application to the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

MONEY FOR THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Congress has appropriated for the Survey, for the fiscal year, 1909-10, the sum of $1,407,390. The largest items are: Geological surveys, $225,000; topographic surveys, $350,000; water resources, structural materials and fuel testing investigations, $100,000 for each class; printing and engraving geologic maps, $100,000; mine accident investigations, $150,000. An appropriation of $90,000 for the investigation of Alaskan mineral resources was carried in the urgent deficiency act. Other appropriations for rent of offices in Washington and for publications make the total amount provided for the work of the Survey about $1,700,000.

PROGRESS OF THE NEW YORK STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The *Report* of the State Geologist (N. Y. State Museum *Report* 61, Vol. 1) is prefaced by a description and plan of the new museum soon to be erected. The geologist's report notes the completion of studies of the rock geology about Rochester and certain other parts of western New York, and the continuation of Professors Kemp and Cushing's work in eastern and northern New York. A fact of some geographic bearing is brought out at two points: the origin of the basin of Lake Champlain, through the down throwing of a series of fault blocks. Work on the surficial geology has been carried on in several regions. From Professor J. B. Woodworth there are observations on the origin of Saratoga and Round Lakes and further study of marine conditions in the Champlain area. Professor H. L. Fairchild completes his studies of glacial waters in the Ontario region and Professor A. P. Brigham describes the Mohawk and Sacandaga lobes of the retiring ice sheet and the lake waters of the Mohawk Valley.

Dr. John M. Clarke, State Geologist and Director of the Museum, appends a novel and keenly interesting paper on the Beginnings of Dependent Life. Such conditions are illustrated from various Paleozoic fossils, with hints of the philosophic bearings of these early examples, upon all modern life.

Attention is invited to undeveloped resources in the form of considerable bodies of oil shales in the Devonian formations between Canandaigua Lake and Lake Erie. It is proposed to complete a careful comparison of these rocks and those of Scotland, the latter representing an industry whose annual product has a value of $10,000,000.

The Seismological station of the State Museum exhibits a considerable series of records, numbering 19 from October 1, 1906, to the same date 1907. An appendix is devoted to economic geology, with papers on Adirondack iron ores, on the mining and quarry industry in 1907, and on the iron ores of the Clinton formation. The last has already been noticed in the *Bulletin.* The output of mines and quarries for 1906 is valued at $37,000,000 and includes thirty-five kinds of mineral and rock products. There has been recent growth in the iron mining of the Adirondack region and the industry shows promise for the future. A. P. B.

MINERALS OF ARIZONA.—Mr. William P. Blake, territorial geologist of Arizona, has issued a report, with this title (64 pages), on the minerals of the territory, their occurrence and association, with notes on their composition. He supplements the account with a few pages on the materials of construction to be found in the territory. Arizona is fortunate in the possession of building stones and other constructive materials in great variety and wide distribution. There are granites of various grades and tints, porphyries, andesites, and diorites, basalts, tufas, and sandstones. Limestones abound suitable for building or for lime production. Granite quarries at Prescott are supplying large cut stone of superior quality for the banks and other buildings. It may also be quarried at numerous other places. The tufas near Tucson are quarried extensively for building and a number of university buildings have been constructed of them. Lithographic stone, found to compare favourably with imported stone, occurs in a remarkable series of horizontal sediments about 32 miles east of Prescott. Clays for fine pottery, or for brick and tile making are abundant, limestones for lime making are accessible at nearly all points where they are needed, marble of fair quality is quarried at many places and excellent native pigments, consisting of hematite, are found, particularly in the Monumental Park mining district.

THE POPULATION OF BOLIVIA.—In the April number of the *Bulletin* of the Philadelphia Geographical Society (1909) Professor Isaiah Bowman discusses the distribution of the people of Bolivia. The article is illustrated by a set of five new maps and several photographs. The maps are: zones of altitude, boundaries, cities, and drainage; two population maps; and a map of the provinces. The chief conclusions are that 80 per cent. of the people, with a density of 2.5 per square mile, live upon 18 per cent. of the area, and 34 per cent., with a density of more than 20 per square mile, upon 5 per cent. of the area. The concentration of the population within the highland area is shown to be due but partially to the elimination of tropical heat thus effected. The rare air of the high plateau, as well as the cold, are unfavourable conditions which, for the white populations, are compensated by the mineral wealth found only in this section. The positions and sizes of the plateau cities are chiefly determined by the distribution of minerals and by their relation to the trade routes between the eastern valley basins and the Pacific coast. The eastern valley basins, at 8,000 feet, contain the densest populations in Bolivia. Their altitude is most favourable for climatic conditions, though they are poorly situated as regards access to the seaboard. The loftiest town of Bolivia is Aullagas, 15,700 feet; the lowest, Puerto Pocheco, 600 feet. The average elevation of the entire list of Bolivia's important towns is 8,900 feet.

The part of Bolivia between the 500 and 1,500 meter contours, the part most favourable, climatologically, for man, occupies but 15 per cent. of the area. Notes are added concerning the thinly populated and higher mountain and plateau tracts and the eastern tropical plains, and conclusions are reached concerning the future lines of population, development and growth.

ASIA.

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION OF THE DUKE OF THE ABRUZZI.—The Duke of the Abruzzi and his party left Marseilles on March 26 on their way to the Himalayas. They arrived at Bombay on April 10 and left by train for the north. The party which accompanies the Duke consists of the Marchese Negrotto, Cav. Vittorio Sella, Cav. Filippo de Filippi, Signor Botta, and seven guides from Courmayeur, Italy. The Marchese Negrotto is the Duke's flag-lieutenant in the Italian Navy. Cav. Sella, whose remarkable skill as photographer is well known, accompanied the Duke on his former expeditions to Mount St. Elias, Franz Josef Land, and Ruwenzori. His illustrations have added not a little to the interest of the books published by the Duke. This is his second visit to the Himalayas and his photographs were one of the chief attractions of the account given by Mr. Douglas Freshfield of his explorations round Kunchinjunga, reputed to be the second highest mountain in the world. Cav. Filippo de Filippi also was the companion of the Duke on his polar exploration and, though he could not accompany him to Ruwenzori, he wrote the admirable history of that expedition which has recently been published.

Signor Botta, a member of the Duke's expeditions to Alaska and Ruwenzori, goes as assistant photographer to Sella. He has already had mountaineering experience in the Caucasus and Himalayas. Four of the seven guides have also had Himalayan experience. Joseph Petigax, who accompanied the Duke on his former expeditions, was for some time with Dr. Workman in his expedition in 1903 in Baltistan. Alexis and Henri Brocherel were with the expedition of Messrs. Longstaff, Mumm, and Brace, to the Nanda Devi group in 1907; and G. Savoie was with the two Swedish mountaineers who recently established a Himalayan record by climbing Kabru, 24,000 feet, in the Eastern Himalayas.

The Duke of the Abruzzi has not made his plans public and some conjectures on the subject have certainly been incorrect. The Rome correspondent of the *London Times* (No. 1,685, Weekly Edition) says that the Duke has no immediate intention of attempting the ascent either of Mount Everest or of Kunchinjunga in the Eastern Himalayas. The correspondent says, he has reason to believe, that the following statement is substantially accurate.

The Duke has arranged for the collection of coolies at Srinagar, Cashmere, which, of course, leaves no doubt that the Karakoram range is to be the scene of his explorations. The large proportion of guides in the party shows that his main object is climbing. The western part of the Karakoram has recently been explored by the Workmans. The central part of the range, however, contains the highest peaks of all, grouped round the great Baltoro glacier. It offers very tempting ground for a mountaineer and there is little doubt that here the choice of mountains to ascend will be made. The Baltoro glacier was explored by Sir W. Martin Conway, in 1892, when he climbed Pioneer Peak, 22,600 feet, to its south. It was revisited in 1902 by the Eckenstein-Guillarmod expedition, of which an account was published by Dr. Guillarmod on their unsuccessful attempt to reach K2. To judge from the photographs which have been brought back, both of K2 and of other giants of the range, the formidable character of the climbing can hardly be exaggerated.

There can be little doubt that Mount Godwin Austen or K2, as it is more familiarly called, will be the first peak to be reconnoitred by the Duke's party. Should close examination prove that it is hopeless to attempt the ascent of this mountain, which ranks third among the highest in the Himalayas, the Duke is quite certain not to return empty handed. Even if he be not able to scale the 28,250 feet of K2, there are plenty of geographical discoveries to be made and other virgin heights to be climbed, especially beyond the main range. The region on the north of the Karakoram has been little explored and, as both the Duke and his flag-lieutenant Negrotto are fully qualified for topographical work, some valuable addition to our knowledge of the trans-Himalayan country may be expected.

POLAR.

ANOTHER EXPEDITION BY DR. BRUCE.—Reuter's Agency reports that Dr. William S. Bruce, the leader of the Scottish Antarctic expedition, has made detailed plans for another south polar expedition, under his command, to leave Great Britain in 1911. He estimates the cost of the enterprise at $250,000.

It is proposed to carry on extensive oceanographical work in the South Atlantic Ocean between and south of Buenos Aires and Cape Town, as well as in the Weddell and Biscoe Seas; to map the coast line of Antarctica to the east and west of Coats Land, and to investigate the interior of Antarctica in that longitude. Part of the project includes a journey across the Antarctic Continent, starting at some suitable base in the vicinity of Coats Land and emerging at McMurdo Bay, Victoria Land, or at King Edward VII Land.

Several motor sledges of a small and handy type will be used, as well as ponies and dogs. The ship will not remain at the winter quarters, but after landing stores and equipment for three years and refitting at Cape Town, will proceed to New Zealand, and thereafter, during the second season, to McMurdo Bay or King Edward Land, in order to lay out câches for and to meet the explorers emerging on the New Zealand side of Antarctica.

The programme includes a circumpolar bathymetrical survey especially in relation to the study of former continental connections. The Coats Land station will be relieved during the third season.

AMERICAN ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION URGED.—At the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society, in Philadelphia, on April 22, the desirability of the participation by the United States in Antarctic exploration was urged by a number of speakers, including Rear Admiral Melville, Edwin Swift Balch, and Henry G. Bryant. The general view expressed was that the United States should organize an antarctic expedition to corroborate the surveys of Lieut. Charles Wilkes of the United States Navy, who was the first man to sight the vast continent which Shackleton has now penetrated nearly to the South Pole. At the end of the discussion, this resolution was adopted:

> *Resolved*, That the American Philosophical Society requests the coöperation of the scientific and geographical societies of the United States, to urge on the United States Navy and the general Government, that it make sufficient appropriations to fit a Government vessel to thoroughly explore and survey the coast of Wilkes Land, and other parts of Antarctica.

CLIMATOLOGY.

German Upper Air Investigations in Tropical East Africa.—To the *Quarterly Journal* of the Royal Meteorological Society for January, 1909, Dr. Richard Assmann contributes a short account of the results obtained by the German aerological expedition for the exploration of the upper air in tropical East Africa between July and December, 1908. Twenty-three balloons were sent up from Lake Victoria, fifteen being recovered, with the instruments. On the two highest ascents, 65,000 feet and 56,000 feet, the upper "isothermal layer" was found, for the first time in the actual equatorial belt. This warm stratum had been discovered by Teisserenc de Bort and Assmann, in Europe, and its existence, above North America had been established by Rotch. The minimum temperature encountered, at 65,000 feet, was —119°. The variability of temperature in the very high strata, which has been shown to be a fact over Europe and North America, was found to have nearly the same value over equatorial Africa. On two ascents, at 56,000 feet, —105° and —62° were registered. Pilot balloons showed an uppermost current blowing from nearly due *west* above the regular easterly current of the equatorial region. The lower strata, below the trades, were controlled by diurnal and seasonal winds, particularly by lake breezes, which generally prevailed up to 3,000-4,000 feet above the lake level. At Dar-es-Salaam, pilot balloons, one of which reached 66,000 feet, went with the easterly trade as far up as 13,000 feet; it then returned to the east in a higher stratum of 26,000 to 33,000 feet, and then again to the west in the highest levels.

R. DeC. W.

Rainfall of Wales.—In the *Geographical Journal* for March, 1909, a paper by G. B. Williams deals with the mean annual rainfall of Wales and Monmouthshire. The map, which accompanies the discussion, shows the distribution of the rainfall in greater detail than does any map hitherto published. The heaviest rainfall is in the portion of the Carnarvon Mountains with a radius of about two miles from the center of Snowdon. Here the average fall is over 150 inches a year. At Glaslyn, on the lee of the summit, and within the Snowdon crater, the mean rainfall is apparently nearly 200 inches. An area of about 170 square miles in these mountains has a rainfall of more than 100 inches per annum.

R. DeC. W.

VARIOUS.

At the recent meeting of the Association of American Geographers held in Baltimore in December last, it was voted to appoint a committee of five to consider the question of geography for secondary schools. Professor W. M. Davis, President of the Association for 1909, has appointed the following as members of the committee and has requested a report at the next meeting of the Association: Professor R. S. Tarr, Cornell University; Professor A. P. Brigham, Colgate University; Professor R. H. Whitbeck, Trenton State Model School; Professor C. F. Marbut, University of Missouri; Professor Richard E. Dodge, Teachers College, Columbia University (Chairman).

Professor G. G. Chisholm, of the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed Secretary of the Geographical Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for the approaching Winnipeg meeting.

Professor R. S. Holway, of the University of California, is to conduct a camping summer school in the Santa Cruz mountains from June 21 to July 3, 1909. Especial attention will be devoted to the topography of the San Andreas Rift of 1906, to the dissection of the peneplains, to the relation of topography to structure, to evidence of former ocean heights and to the stream development in the region. R. E. D.

OBITUARY.

JULIEN MANÈS.—The Bordeaux Society of Commercial Geography announces the death, on April 2, 1909, of Mr. Julien Manès, Honorary General Secretary and member of the Council of the Society.

D. JULIÁN SUÁREZ INCLÁN.—We regret to record the death of Señor D. Julián Suárez Inclán, the distinguished President of the Royal Geographical Society of Madrid, which occurred in that city on March 9, 1909.

JEAN-BAPTISTE DU FIEF.—Professor Jean-Baptiste du Fief, the venerable Secretary-General of the Royal Belgian Geographical Society, died on December 13, 1908, at the age of 80 years.

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY'S MEDALS.—A regular meeting of the Society was held at the Engineering Societies' Building, No. 29 West 39th Street, on Tuesday, April 20th, 1909, at 8.30 o'clock P. M.

President Huntington in the chair.

The occasion was marked by the presentation of the Cullum Geographical Medal to Professor William Morris Davis of Harvard University and by the President's announcement of the two latest awards of the Cullum and Daly Medals. President Huntington said:

"It is my exceptional and agreeable duty, this evening, to announce, in the name of the Council and members, the awarding of three gold medals of this Society, and I need scarcely say that they are to be given to men so distinguished by their achievements throughout the whole scientific world, that such an offering takes first the pleasurable meaning of a tribute before it can be construed as a distinction.

"It is unfortunate that it is not our privilege to have with us all of those we thus desire to honour. Science, having no country, has distributed her quiet workers far apart, and in regard to two at least, I must regretfully announce that one is at present in China, and another in the Argentine Republic.

"The Daly Medal, founded through the generosity of our former President, Judge Charles P. Daly, has been awarded to the Honourable William W. Rockhill, our Minister in China, in consideration of the scientific value of his two journeys of exploration in that country, and in Mongolia and Tibet during the years 1888 to 1892, and in further consideration of the value of his numerous additions to the geographical nomenclature of Tibet, his knowledge of Eastern languages, and writings on Oriental subjects.

"The Cullum Medal has been awarded to Mr. Francisco P. Moreno, regarded as the leading scientific geographer of the Argentine Republic, and one of the foremost anthropologists of any country. He made extensive explorations in the

Andean region and in Patagonia, before the year 1900, his journeys extending over thousands of miles, in the exploration of rivers, lakes and mountains, of many of which he was the discoverer. He is the distinguished founder of the La Plata Museum, of which he was Director from 1879 to 1907.

"Last year, your Society decided to award the Cullum Medal to Professor William M. Davis, who, on this occasion, is fortunately able to be present.

"There is a peculiar privilege for us to-night in this meeting of welcome, for Professor Davis himself represents to us that broad intellectual endeavour which is forming a veritable new world. When we consider that the reality of our universe exists, for anyone of us, only as he or she can conceive of it, that each new added fact or grouping makes it broader and grander, so that the future human being may be imagined as inheriting a world immeasurably greater from the mere possession of more of its profound secrets, then we must turn to such men as these with that gratitude which springs up within us for the gifts of pure altruism with which they free our souls, and for which we can never render back just payment. This medal, then, must become a symbol. In itself it is nothing; but in its signification, it represents the expression of our sincere admiration, and our profound gratitude for human achievement by human will.

"Professor Davis, in the name of the American Geographical Society, I present you with this medal."

Professor Davis responded as follows:

"It is a great honour to receive the Cullum Medal from your hands, Mr. President, and all the more so because you announced at the same time the award of medals to two explorers, Rockhill, widely known for his travels in inner China, and Moreno, of Argentina, famous for his journeys and surveys in Patagonia. My own studies stand in strong contrast to what these geographers have done, for although my travels have led me into all continents, except Australia, my work has never had the quality of new exploration, but rather that of re-exploration in search of the explanatory and systematic description of districts already known in a general way. That work of this character should win your approval is a great encouragement to persevere in it and to carry it forward as far as lies in my power."

The following persons, recommended by the Council, were elected to Fellowship:

M. Orme Wilson,
William Patten,
Most Rev. Archbishop John M. Farley,
E. H. Locatelli,
Robert Goelet,
Granville R. Fortescuè,
James J. Higginson, Jr.,
Charles H. Tweed,
Cortlandt Irving,
Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow,
Henry E. Huntington,
Ora Howard,
C. Temple Emmet,
George B. Agnew.

Professor Davis then addressed the Society on "The Lessons of the Colorado Canyon." (An abstract of the lecture will appear in the *Bulletin.*) Stereoptican views were shown.

On motion the Society adjourned.